

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 /057 W
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R 171938Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9228
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05028

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UR
SUBJECT: ZAMYATIN PROMOTION TO CPSU CC INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT

1. ACCORDING TO MOSCOW SOURCES, MOVE OF LEONID ZAMYATIN FROM DIRECTORSHIP OF TASS TO HEAD OF CPSU CC "INFORMATION DEPARTMENT" IS MAJOR PROMOTION. ZAMYATIN MAY BE MOVING INTO POSITION IN CC REPORTEDLY LEFT VACANT SINCE 1968 TRANSFER OF SHEVLYAGIN TO BE AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA. SPECULATION IS THAT ZAMYATIN WILL BE ON A LEVEL PARALLEL WITH VADIM ZAGLADIN, FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT UNDER PONOMAREV.

2. IN HIS NEW POSITION ZAMYATIN WILL REPORTEDLY HAVE CONTROL OVER FOREIGN PROPAGANDA OF USSR AND SOME SPECULATE THAT HIS APPOINTMENT CONSTITUTES A REORGANIZATION OF CC PROPAGANDA ORGANS TOGETHER WITH A MANDATE TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA
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ABROAD.

3. THIS INFORMATION ABOUT ZAMYATIN IS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE, BUT ZAMYATIN HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH WORLD'S PRESS AND AS GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BECAME FAMILIAR WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' APPROACH TO NEWS.

ZAMYATIN HAS REPUTATION FOR BEING HARD LINER ON SUBJECT OF DISSIDENTS HIS KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. SCENE AND HIS RECENT EXPOSURE AS MEMBER OF FONOMAREV DELEGATION TO U.S. ATTITUDES ON SHCHARANSKIY, SALT, AND HORN OF AFRICA WOULD SEEM TO MAKE HIM IDEALLY SUITED TO HEAD UP CC PROPAGANDA OFFICE IN CHARGE OF PUSHING SOVIET POLICY IN THE WEST.

4. SEVERAL DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW HAVE HEARD THAT VALENTIN FALIN, CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR IN BONN, WILL REPLACE ZAMYATIN AT TASS. FALIN WILL IN TURN BE REPLACED, IT IS SAID, BY SERGEY LAPIN, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING. COMMENT: LAPIN IS GENERALLY DISLIKED. HE HAS BAD REPUTATION AMONG SOVIETS AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE. EMBASSY'S CONTACTS WITH LAPIN HAVE BEEN DISAGREEABLE. END COMMENT. TOON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PGOV, UR, PINT, (ZAMYATIN, LEONID)
To: STATE
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